

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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SCCT-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 SAM-01 /074 W

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R 251445Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9130

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, SY

SUBJECT: PERES ACCUSES SYRIA OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR RAMAT
MAGSHIMIM TERRORIST INCIDENT

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN NOVEMBER 24 KNESSET STATEMENT DEFENSE
MINISTER PERES ACCUSED SYRIA OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE
NOVEMBER 20 TERRORIST ATTACK ON RAMAT MAGSHIMIM, WARNED THAT
FAILURE TO OBSERVE THE TERMS OF THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT
WOULD RENDER IT MEANINGLESS, AND REAFFIRMED ISRAEL'S
DETERMINATION TO RETAIN THE SETTLEMENTS ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS.
END SUMMARY

1. IN HARD-HITTING, BLUNT KNESSET SPEECH, (OFFICIAL GOI TEXT)
DEFMIN PERES CHARACTERIZED SYRIA'S UN STATEMENT DENYING PRIOR
KNOWLEDGE OF THE ATTACK ON RAMAT MAGSHIMIM AS "A CRUDE FALSEHOOD."
HE WENT ON TO DESCRIBE SYRIAN CONTENTION THAT THOSE INVOLVED
WERE MEMBERS OF A PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATION AS "A FEEBLE
EXCUSE." HE ADDED: "IT IS...NOT THE SYRIANS WHO ARE
HARNESSED TO FIGHT THE PALESTINIANS' WAR. IT IS THEY WHO...
HARNES THE PALESTINIANS TO FIGHT THE WARS OF THE SYRIANS."

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2. IN WARNING SYRIANS OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISREGARDING

TERMS OF MAY 1974 DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, PERES STATED THAT "ISRAEL SIGNED THE AGREEMENT WITH THE INTENTION OF ADHERING TO IT...IN LETTER AND SPIRIT, BUT NOT AT ANY PRICE. IF SYRIA DEMONSTRATES THAT SHE IS A PARTY THAT CANNOT BE RELIED UPON TO FULFILL HER OBLIGATIONS AND...TO DO HER PART IN IMPLEMENTING THE AGREEMENT, THEN SUCH AN AGREEMENT INEVITABLY BECOMES A WORTHLESS SCRAP OF PAPER...ISRAEL POSSESSES SUFFICIENT FORCES TO DEFEND HER FRONTIERS, HER RIGHTS, AND HER CITIZENS--WITH UNDOF OR WITHOUT, WITH AN AGREEMENT OR WITHOUT."

3. AS REGARDS GOLAN HEIGHTS SETTLEMENTS, PERES SAID THAT "...OUR SETTLEMENTS ARE ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS BECAUSE WHEN THE...HEIGHTS WERE UNDER SYRIAN CONTROL, THERE WAS NO REST FOR OUR SETTLEMENTS LYING AT THEIR FOOT. THE SETTLERS CAME... WITH THE INNER CONVICTION THAT THE ONLY WAY TO GUARANTEE THE SECURITY OF NORTHERN ISRAEL LIES IN THE CONTINUOUS AGRICULTURAL PRESENCE OF SETTLEMENTS. SYRIAN GUNS BROUGHT THEM TO THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. PALESTINIAN AXES WILL NOT SEND THEM DOWN. ISRAEL WILL DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY TO FORTIFY THESE SETTLEMENTS, TO DRIVE OFF AND STRIKE AT ALL ATTACKERS. AND SHE KNOWS...THAT THE PROBLEM BEFORE HER IS TWO-SIDED: A DICTATORIAL, WAR-MONGERING REGIME AND TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS THAT DO NOT SHY AWAY FROM MURDER, NO MATTER WHAT METHOD IS EMPLOYED...THOSE WHO HONOR AGREEMENTS MAY EXPECT THAT AGREEMENTS WITH THEM WILL BE HONORED, BUT THOSE WHO VIOLATE THEM WILL HAVE TO BEAR THE CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH VIOLATION."

4. RAMAT MAGSHIMIM INCIDENT WAS ALSO DISCUSSED AT NOVEMBER 23 CABINET MEETING. FOLLOWING IS RELEVANT EXCERPT FROM GOI COMMUNIQUE ON CABINET DELIBERATION. BEGIN TEXT: THE INFILTRATION INTO RAMAT MAGSHIMIM AND SIMILAR ACTS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID, WERE IN TOTAL CONTRADICTION TO THE COMMITMENTS UNDERTAKEN BY THE SYRIANS AT THE TIME OF SIGNING OF THE INTERIM AGREEMENT. THE MATTER HAS BEEN AND WILL BE RAISED IN POLITICAL CONTACTS WITH VARIOUS BODIES. END TEXT.

5. COMMENT: PERES' KNESSET STATEMENT IS THE TOUGHEST ISRAELI ADMONITION TO SYRIA SINCE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE DISENGAGEMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGREEMENT EIGHTEEN MONTHS AGO, AND ACCURATELY REFLECTS THE HIGH DEGREE OF CONCERN WHICH THE RAMAT MAGSHIMIM INCIDENT HAS EVOKED HERE. INTENSITY OF THE ISRAELI REACTION IS STRONGER THAN WAS CASE AFTER OCTOBER 28 PENETRATION BECAUSE TERRORISTS FOR FIRST TIME NOT ONLY ENTERED GOLAN HEIGHTS SETTLEMENT AND INFLECTED CASUALTIES, BUT LIVED TO TELL THE TALE IN DAMASCUS. DUNNIGAN

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